Summer Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Strive for gold at Wildlife Olympics

Test your skills and compare your abilities to animals in Yellowstone. How far can you jump? How well can you see and smell? Take part in Yellowstone Wildlife Olympics on scheduled Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between noon and 3 PM. Stay for as little or as long as your plans allow.

Mammoth Hot Springs (Mondays from 12–3 PM)

Beside the Temporary Visitor Center June 9, 16, 23, 30 • July 7, 14, 21, 28 • August 4

Old Faithful (Wednesdays from 12-3 PM)

Near Old Faithful Visitor Education Center June 4, 11, 18, 25 • July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 • August 6

Canyon Village (Thursdays from 12-3 PM)

Near Canyon Visitor Education Center June 5, 12, 19, 26 • July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 • August 7

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Teachers can bring a group to Yellowstone (with at least three weeks prior notice), have a ranger visit a school in the area, or schedule a video conference with students anywhere. Details at www.nps.gov/yell/forteachers

Stars Over Yellowstone Weather permitting; enjoy programs about astronomy offered in cooperation with the Museum of the Rockies with assistance from the Southwest Montana Astronomical Society. Find constellations, hear star stories, and view celestial objects through telescopes.

Night Sky Observing Madison Information Station Parking Lot

10:30 PM Fridays and Saturdays: June 27 & 28 and July 25 & 26.

Find the Milky Way, Saturn, craters on the Moon, the center of the Galaxy, star clusters, and nebula. Telescopes available. Bring a flashlight.

Safe Solar Observing Old Faithful Visitor Education Center area

2-5 PM Saturdays: June 28 and July 26.

Safely view the sun through telescopes. Great for the whole family.

Evening programs about astronomy • Madison Amphitheater

Fri. June 27, 9:30 PM • Cosmic update 2014

What's up, what's new, and what's hot in the big wide universe and exploration of it. Presented by Dr. Jim Manning, Executive Director, The Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Sat. June 28, 9:30 PM • Unearthing Mars

A current look at Mars as it shines in the evening sky-how it's different, what we're finding, and how it may have started out like Yellowstone. Presented by Dr. Jim Manning.

Fri. July 25, 9:30 PM • Seeing in the Dark: Tales of an Amateur Astronomer

Curiosity to discover more of nature's secrets and feel a personal connection to the universe leads many to observe the stars. Learn about observing with binoculars, star hopping, choosing your first telescope, observation techniques, using star charts, and more. Presented by Dr.Mike Murray.

Sat. July 26, 9:30 pm • Stars Gazing from the National Parks

Some of our most beautiful natural resources exist in the National Parks, including the night sky!

Nearly pristine views of stars and deep sky wonders can be experienced from places like Yellowstone.

However, when you have a sky filled with stars, sometimes finding your way around the constellations can be challenging. Come and see how to get the most out of your star observing experience in Yellowstone, whether it be with the naked eye, binoculars, or a telescope. Presented by Dr. Mike Murray, Planetarium Program Manager, Clark Planetarium, Salt Lake City.

Stay on designated trails and boardwalks. Ground in hydrothermal areas is fragile and thin, and there is scalding water just below. Visitors have fallen through and died here. Keep your children close at hand.

Keep your distance. You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) from bears and wolves. A distance of 25 yards (23 m) is required from bison, elk, and other animals. Regardless of distance, if any wild animal changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.

As you enjoy trails, be bear aware. You are safer hiking in groups of three or more. Make yourself heard in areas where you can't see far around you. Do not run from a bear under any circumstance. Carry bear spray and know how to use it safely.